



D'Amato

Michael

Dear Neighbor:

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well.

I was truly honored to have been re-elected to my third term as your representative on the Milwaukee Common Council. I continue to be humbled by the faith and trust that you have placed in me to represent your interests at City Hall. I hope that we have provided you with timely and efficient service when you have had occasion to call upon my office. I pledge to you that I will continue to try to improve the services you receive from the City of Milwaukee and that I will ensure those services are provided at the lowest possible cost.

In this newsletter I have included articles on recent legislation that I have offered, a snapshot of the recently adopted city budget for 2005, always important parking information and progress reports on some exciting new projects happening in Milwaukee's East Side and Riverwest communities. I hope that you find this both useful and informative.

It is a great time to be living in the 3rd Aldermanic District and in the City of Milwaukee as a whole. Milwaukee is in the midst of a renaissance as people rediscover that "All things good flow through the city." We have rediscovered the joy and efficiency of living, working, shopping and recreating in walkable and vibrant neighborhoods. With the continued commitment of each of you, Milwaukee's future will continue to shine brightly.

My best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Mike



Michael D'Amato
City Hall, Room 205
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

email: mdamat@milwaukee.gov
phone: (414) 286-2221
fax: (414) 286-3456

Alderman D'Amato's Committee Assignments

Chair: Judiciary & Legislation
Chair: Zoning, Neighborhoods & Development
Vice Chair: Finance & Personnel
Member: Steering & Rules

New One-Stop Citizen Service Request On The Web

Was your garbage left behind? Are abandoned cars clogging the street? While you can always contact Ald. D'Amato by e-mail, phone or letter with any concerns, or the DPW Call Center at **286-8282**, the City of Milwaukee has launched a new initiative called "E-Service."

Ald. D'Amato, whose 3rd District constituents are perhaps the most computer "wired" in the city, directed the city's information technology division to develop an online request form that would allow a citizen to request a service without knowing which city department would provide the service. The result was "E-Service." "I'm proud to have sponsored this important resolution," Ald. D'Amato said. "This new capability provides single-window access to city government services without regard to departmental boundaries."

The new "E-Service Request" page automatically sends your request to the appropriate city department. And after submitting your request, you can easily check its status by simply entering your e-mail address and a password.

Previously most service requests were delivered to departments via inter-office mail and returned in the



same way. Ald. D'Amato says E-Service cuts at least two-days off that process. And he expects the service to increase the awareness of the scope of city services and information available online.

"Getting feedback directly from residents is invaluable because many times they provide insights and suggestions that can help improve the way we do things," Ald. D'Amato said. "E-Service greatly expands our communication sounding board with the public."

It's believed that Milwaukee is one of just a few major U.S. cities offering such a fully-integrated, trackable, user-friendly online city service request system. The E-Service request can be accessed on the www.milwaukee.gov city website. The site currently serves about 10,000 visitors daily.

3rd District Info Delivered Direct To You

E-Notify is another on-line service of the city that can keep you abreast of news or events in the 3rd Aldermanic District. Ald. D'Amato says you can sign up for E-Notify and receive e-mail updates on neighborhood events, legislation and issues affecting the 3rd District. Sign up by going to www.milwaukee.gov and search for "E-Notify".



News From City Hall

Be Alert To Changes In Pickup Of Special Trash Items

Ald. D’Amato would like to remind 3rd District residents of a major change in the Department of Public Works as it relates to the collection of certain items once collected in “Special Pickups.” As a result of the 2005 city budget, many of those special items will now be collected by sanitation crews on their weekly routes. **The change is expected to save taxpayers about \$710,000 a year.**

In addition:

- Washers, dryers, stoves, refrigerators, and air conditioners will no longer be collected.
- There are limits on yard waste and brush.
- Bulky items, yard waste, old tires and other household materials can be taken to the **Self-Help Centers at 3879 W. Lincoln Ave. or 6660 N. Industrial Rd.**
- Holiday trees will be picked up with your garbage or can be recycled at a Self-Help Center.

Ald. D’Amato says you can put up to four cubic yards of materials, about the size of two sofas, out on your regular garbage collection day. Contact the **DPW Call Center at 286-8282** for pickup of larger amounts or other information.



Check out the city’s website at: www.milwaukee.gov

For Ald. D’Amato’s Webpage and more information about the 3rd District go to: www.milwaukee.gov/district3

D’Amato Sponsors Measure Enabling Citizens To Know More About Lobbyists

The Milwaukee Common Council has approved a measure to let residents know which lobbyists are the most active at City Hall. The measure requires those who lobby city officials to register and disclose information about who they represent, and how much time and money they spend on their contacts with city employees. “I think it’s a victory for the citizens of the city and their ability to determine who is spending money to influence city policy,” said Ald. D’Amato, the primary sponsor of the measure. Ald. D’Amato said it would not apply to average citizens who contact elected officials on neighborhood or city issues.

Some key provisions:

- **Applies to lobbyists and developers who spend 2 or more hours on an issue in a 6-month period.**
- **Register with the city within 15 days of the lobbying contact.**

- **Pay a \$125 registration fee.**
- **Applies to council actions and administrative approvals.**
- **Applies to paid lobbyists and business owners.**
- **Effective July 1, 2005.**

Ald. D’Amato said the council members are not lobbied nearly as often as state lawmakers. “I think the public perception on lobbying activity is much greater than the actual lobbying that takes place,” said Ald. D’Amato. “Nonetheless, it is important that we promote transparency in city government so that citizens can determine on their own what influence lobbyists may have on their elected officials.” All material filed by lobbyists would be considered a public record, and would be posted on the city webpage at www.milwaukee.gov.

“When a great city ceases to build, it commences to die.”—U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (1927-2003)

City Freezes Tax Levy For 2005, Rate Drops \$0.54

The final 2005 City of Milwaukee budget approved by the Common Council and mayor “freezes” the **property tax levy** while attempting to maintain key city services.

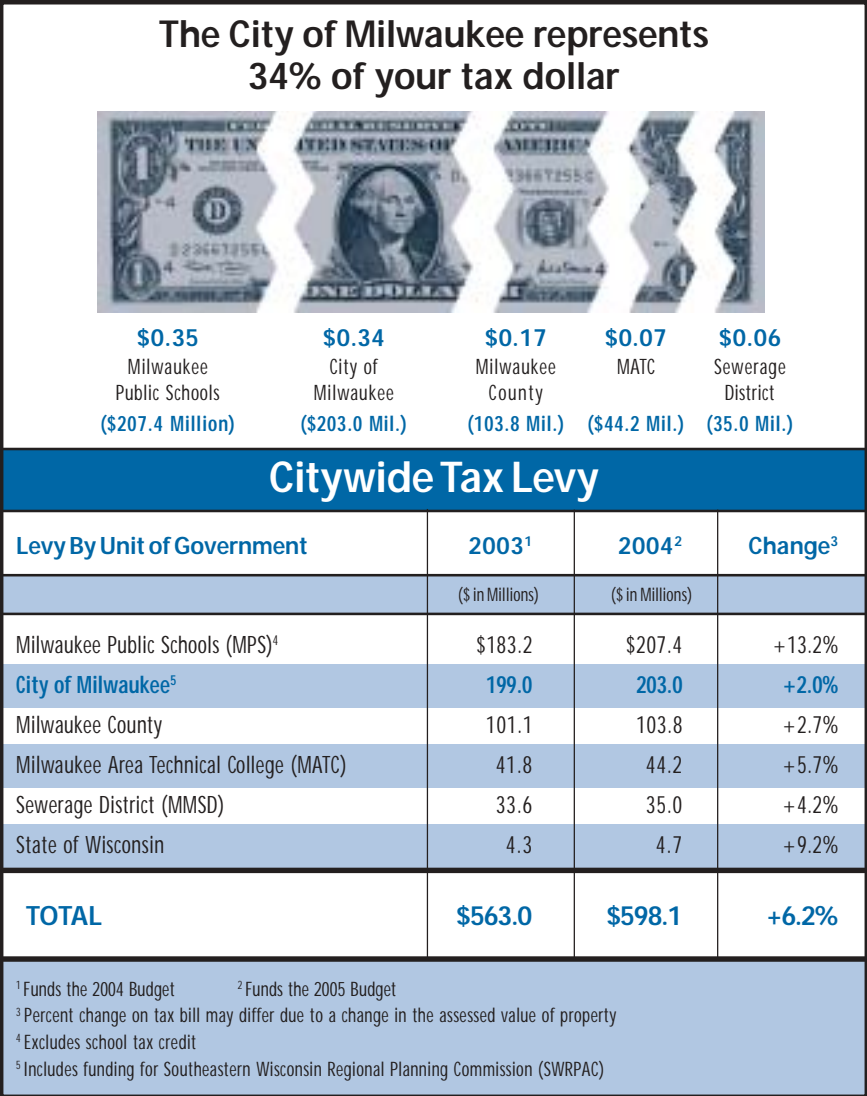
- **Final rate-\$9.19 per \$1,000 of assessed value**
- **Down from the 2004 rate of \$9.73.**
- **Rate reduction due to controlled local government spending and an increase in assessed property values in the city.**

Ald. D’Amato said “It was a very difficult budget but one which ensures no major service reductions for city residents. This however cannot be sustained and will lead to difficult choices in the future. I look forward to much input from constituents on this very important issue.”

The tax levy for 2005 falls within the tax levy “freeze” as defined by state Republican legislators. The approved budget increases the levy less than 2%, the smallest increase of any municipality in Milwaukee County. Ald. D’Amato and others said it would be wrong to end up so close to the “freeze” and not make it, that it was crucial to stay within the guidelines as the city argues against efforts in Madison to cut critical shared revenue payments to local units of government.

For 2005, the owner of a \$100,000 home can expect to pay \$54 less in city taxes than in 2004. With no change in assessed value, the combined tax bill for all local taxing bodies for that same homeowner will go from \$2,617 to about \$2,586. Final bills are calculated on a home’s assessed value, which have increased for most city homeowners.

Ald. D’Amato said the **Comparative Property Tax Rates** of the six taxing units that appear on your tax bill (graphic at right) clearly illustrate how the council has been responsible in **controlling spending and holding down taxes.**





In Your Neighborhood

Brownfield To Become \$Million Home Site

A longtime vision of Ald. D’Amato will soon become a reality. What’s been called the “**largest vacant lot in Riverwest**,” the former Johnson Controls site south of Bremen and Concordia, is about to become a **new home subdivision**. The plan calls for development of 22 new single family and two family, owner-occupied homes on the 2.8 acre site. They will be valued at around **\$4 million**. “This is exciting news for the Riverwest neighborhood. A desolate industrial brownfield will now be turned into a productive use that will fit within the tradition and fabric of the neighborhood,” Ald. D’Amato said.

Although **Johnson Controls** made a significant investment in removing contaminated soil from the former battery manufacturing operation, Ald. D’Amato went to Washington, D.C. and with the assistance of **U.S. Senator Herb Kohl**, secured an additional \$300,000 federal grant

to help clean the site to even higher standards. **Development proposals for the site are due January 26, 2005**. Ald. D’Amato stresses the city welcomes inventive site designs, but ones that fit the context of the neighborhood. Guidelines include:

- Energy efficient and “green” design.
- 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 stories.
- Preferably 1800 sq. ft. minimum.
- Two-car garage behind or near rear of house.

The land will be sold or transferred directly from Johnson Controls to the developer who submits the successful proposal for site development. Ald. D’Amato says the project also encourages the developer to participate in the **City of Milwaukee Emerging Business Enterprise Program**, which helps developers contract with small and emerging businesses to complete work on city-directed projects.

Rebirth Of The Kenilworth Building

Once a Ford assembly plant and later a torpedo factory for the U.S. Department of Defense, the Kenilworth Building will soon undergo a \$69 million rebirth.

The state Building Commission, chaired by Gov. Jim Doyle, has approved plans to renovate the massive UW-Milwaukee building to include condominiums, apartments for graduate students and students with families, retail spaces, improved space for the Peck School of the Arts and new parking spaces. The project would make the spaces available to students by fall 2006, said Ald. D’Amato.

“This project will become a model for other cities and universities across the country,” said Ald.

D’Amato, who has supported the project since its inception and who has strongly pushed for UWM to explore additional off-campus student housing in other parts of the city.

“The Kenilworth Building will certainly become a vibrant, dynamic destination for students, residents and visitors for many decades to come,” Ald. D’Amato said.

Plans call for retail spaces to line the building’s first floor, a bicycle and pedestrian path connecting the building to the Oak Leaf Trail, 20-30 condominiums, approximately 300 market-style apartments for students (not dorm rooms), and indoor parking. **Construction is set to begin this year in late winter or early spring.**



Ald. D’Amato joins Mayor Tom Barrett and Ald. Mike McGee, Jr. in a ribbon “tying” ceremony for the new North Avenue Pedestrian Bridge. Tying the ribbon instead of cutting it emphasized the role of the bridge in linking two neighborhoods, East Village and Beerline.

Unique Walkway Links Two Dynamic Neighborhoods

The new **North Avenue Dam Pedestrian Bridge** is open, spanning the **Milwaukee River** between the **East Village** and **Beerline neighborhoods**. The bridge is located on the remnants of the North Avenue Dam, which was removed in 1997 to improve water quality in the Milwaukee River. “This bridge enhances the value of the immediate neighborhoods and is a unique way to enjoy both the urban and natural settings Milwaukee has to offer,” said Ald. D’Amato, who represents the neighborhood on the east bank of the bridge. The **\$1.3 million bridge spans 350 feet** and provides the latest link in expanding the riverfront walkway system. Funding was provided by a tax incremental financing district from the adjacent Beerline neighborhood.

Distinct Flavor Of East Village To Be Preserved

The old and historic neighborhood on Milwaukee’s lower east side, known as East Village, has now been designated as a conservation zone by the Common Council. The area includes many turn-of-the-century buildings and “Polish flat” style homes and duplexes.

Ald. D’Amato, who represents the area, said “the measure is needed to protect and preserve the neighborhood’s unique character and help control and shape future development so that it complements the traditional fabric of the Brady Street area.” Local neighbors feared that the area is being targeted by developers looking to build multi-unit condominiums on blocks originally dominated by one- and two-story residences. The conservation zone covers the area bordered by Brady St. to the Milwaukee River and from Humboldt Ave. to Warren Ave. It creates design guidelines for new construction and major exterior renovations.

In addition, **East Village** was recently named to the **National Register of Historic Places**. “This working class neighborhood was established and built by Polish immigrants starting in the 1860s, and today it’s home to a diverse mix of people from all walks of life,” said Ald. D’Amato. “The conservation zone and historic designation are a recognition that the East Village neighborhood is not only special and unique, but also offers exciting opportunities for restoration work.”

The conservation zone becomes effective April 1st.



During a news conference in front of the **UWM Union** on E. Kenwood Ave. last year, Ald. D’Amato announced **new legislation** and a city enforcement strategy to hold landlords accountable to area residents and to **control housing costs for renters**. Also participating were (background, from left to right): **Martin G. Collins**, commissioner of the Department of Neighborhood Services, **Mayor Tom Barrett**, and **Jay Unora**, assistant city attorney.



City Hall, Room 205
200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202-3570

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Ald. D'Amato was on hand during a **special reception** in 2004 honoring the work of two **3rd District residents - Gail Fitch (left) and Randy Bryant**. The two were honored with **Cream of the Cream City Awards** from the **Historic Preservation Commission**

for their many years of **dedicated service in historic preservation matters** in the city. Ald. D'Amato previously served as a member of the Historic Preservation Commission for seven years.

Winter Parking Changes Bring Relief

Some 3rd District streets which are often clogged with parked cars are getting relief with adoption of a change in the **“2-inch” rule**. The Milwaukee Common Council has approved a change to a **“4-inch” rule**, which officials say is more realistic.

Under the new rule, to facilitate plowing, vehicles can park on both sides of designated streets, except when snow accumulates to a depth of 4 inches or more. Once the street is plowed and the snow has ceased, parking is once again allowed on both sides.

The lower east side and parts of Riverwest are home to many older neighborhoods where narrow streets can get congested, especially during winter months. Because of high demand for on-street parking in these areas, Ald. D’Amato has consistently worked to increase the availability of on-street parking and says the legislation adds hundreds of parking spaces.

When coupled with similar legislation the alderman introduced which took effect December 1, 2004, the changes are expected to provide approximately 860 on-street parking spaces, about 20 additional spaces per block, to the district that typically has strong demand for street parking. “However, the success of this arrangement is in the hands of area residents,” said Ald. D’Amato. “Their cooperation in moving their vehicles during a snow plowing operation will dictate our long-term success.”

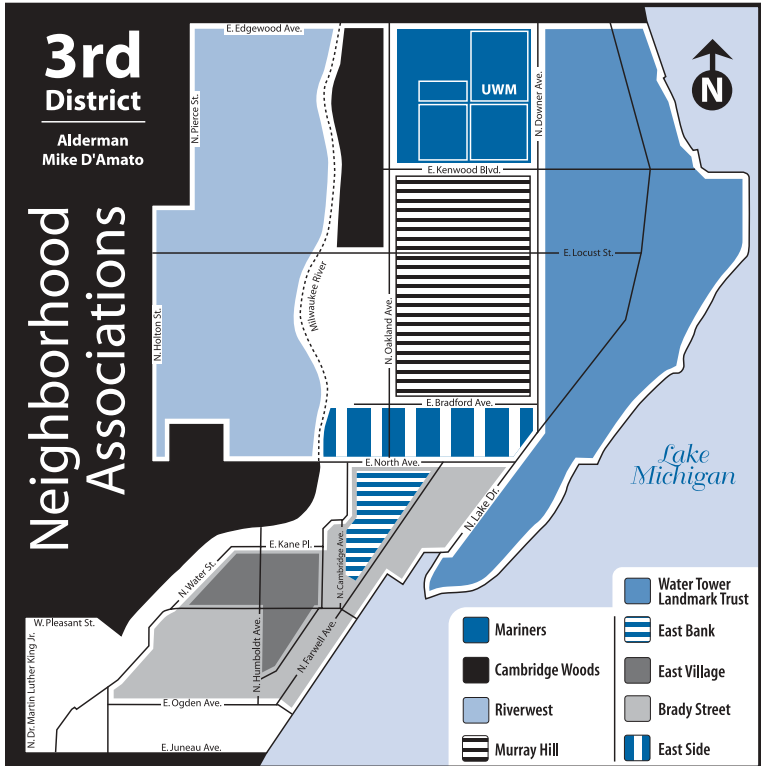
A caution—the new law will apply to any 4-inch total, such as 3 inches one day and 1 inch the next. The rule will be in effect as soon as signs are changed. Motorists should look for signs describing the parking restrictions along streets affected by winter rules and tune in to local television and radio news broadcasts to learn about city plowing operations.

Questions with Winter Parking?

Go to www.milwaukee.gov/district3 and click on Winter Parking Restrictions & Map.



You can also go to www.mpw.net/Pages/noparking.html or call **286-8350**.



For more information about your neighborhood association contact:

- Brady Street** • Pat Suminski, President • **271-8723**
- Cambridge Woods** • Peter McMullen, President • **962-6834**
- East Bank** • Daryl Ransom, President • **277-7870**
- East Village** • Lisa Christopherson, President • **277-0490**
- Mariners** • Mike Panlener, President • **962-6688**
- Murray Hill** • Kay Baldwin, President • **332-8979**
- Riverwest** • Nancy Centz, Chair • **265-4987**
- Water Tower Landmark Trust** • Toni McBride, President • **964-3555**